

**BOND CHARACTERISTICS OF CARBON FIBER
REINFORCED POLYMER STRENGTHENED
CONCRETE MEMBER EXPOSED TO ACIDIC
SOLUTION**

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Degree of Master of Philosophy

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Moratuwa
Sri Lanka

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree
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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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The above candidate has carried out research for the Master of Philosophy under my supervision.

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Signature of supervisor:

Date: 28.02.2024

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ABSTRACT

Deterioration of construction materials due to aggressive environments is becoming a serious issue nowadays. Concrete is a widely used construction materials however, due to its alkaline nature, it is highly susceptible to acidic corrosion. Therefore, the concrete structures lose the aesthetic appearance and become structurally unsafe even before it's intended service life. In order to rehabilitate these deteriorated structures fiber composites were introduced in the civil engineering industry. Several types of fiber composites are available for the civil engineering application, however, due to the superior engineering properties Carbon Fiber composites are commonly used to strengthen buildings which may experience aggressive environments. Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer (CFRP) composites consist of carbon fibers which are relatively immune to the aggressive environmental conditions and epoxy resin matrix which is highly susceptible to environmental degradation. Extensive researches were conducted all around the world to investigate structural strengthening and load transfer mechanisms of CFRP strengthened system however, environmental degradation of these systems were studied comprehensively. Especially, very minimum research studies were conducted to investigate the degradation of CFRP to concrete strengthened system in acidic environment.

This study aims to address the lacuna regarding the deterioration behaviour of CFRP to concrete strengthened system in acidic environmental conditions. Extensive literature review was conducted to identify available research studies and limitations in CFRP to concrete strengthened system in aggressive environmental conditions. At the beginning, a case study was conducted at Awissawela wastewater treatment, which was renovated from a near collapse condition by CFRP composite. Later experimental studies were conducted to study the degradation behaviour of CFRP, concrete and CFRP-Concrete interface under various acidic condition. These acidic conditions were simulated in order to achieve actual conditions identified in several locations. Series of accelerated environmental exposure were conducted and several tests were carried out.

Finally, the obtained results were statistically analysed and conclusions were presented.

Key words: *CFRP, Concrete, Acidic Environment, Deterioration, Residual strength, SEM, UPV*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
1 Chapter 1: Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 The aim and objectives	2
1.3 Layout of the thesis	3
2 Chapter 2: Literature review	5
2.1 General	5
2.1.1 Introduction	6
2.2 Material characteristics	12
2.2.1 Concrete	12
2.2.2 CFRP	15
2.2.3 Adhesive	16
2.3 Available codes and standards	17
2.4 Real-world application	18
2.5 CFRP bonding techniques	22
2.5.1 Surface preparation	22
2.5.2 Application of primer	23
2.5.3 Adhesive bonding	24
2.5.4 Wet layup method	24

2.5.5	Limitation in CFRP application in concrete structures	24
2.6	Retrofitting concrete elements subjected to deterioration.	25
2.6.1	Introduction to concrete deterioration	25
2.6.2	Application of CFRP in deteriorated concrete elements	26
2.6.3	Application of CFRP in corroded steel elements	27
2.6.4	Application of CFRP in aggressive environmental conditions	28
2.7	Bond performance of CFRP/concrete	29
2.7.1	Force Transfer between the concrete substrate, CFRP and the adhesive	29
2.7.2	Failure modes	30
2.7.3	Key parameters affecting failure modes	31
2.7.4	Durability of bond	31
2.8	Environmental Effects	31
2.9	Loading Effects	34
2.10	Evaluation of bond strength	36
2.10.1	Stress Distribution Approach	37
2.10.2	Fracture Mechanics Based Approach	38
2.11	Bond-Slip Relationship	39
2.11.1	Bond Testing Methods	41
2.12	Research gap summary	42
3	Chapter 3: Restoration of an equalization tank located in an industrial wastewater treatment plant using CFRP retrofitting technology: A case study	45
3.1	Introduction	45
3.2	Details of Wastewater Treatment Plant	48
3.3	Onsite inspection	50
3.3.1	Service Condition of the tank	50

3.3.2	Crack survey	53
3.4	SEM analysis	54
3.5	Structural analysis of the tank	54
3.6	Results and Discussion	56
3.6.1	SEM Analysis	56
3.6.2	Structural analysis results	57
3.6.3	Root cause for heavy degradation	59
3.6.4	Retrofitting of structure	62
3.7	Conclusion and recommendations	70
3.7.1	Conclusion	70
3.7.2	Recommendations	71
4	Chapter 4: Reliability analysis of CFRP sheets subjected to exposure of water, acidic and alkaline environments using Weibull analysis.	72
4.1	Introduction to the proposed plan	72
4.2	Experimental program	74
4.2.1	Materials and specimen preparation	74
4.2.2	Environmental conditioning	76
4.2.3	Accelerated test protocol	77
4.2.4	Test method and instrumentation	78
4.3	Results and discussion	79
4.4	Reliability assessment	89
4.4.1	Formulation	89
4.4.2	Calibration	91
4.4.3	Reliability and hazard assessment	95
4.4.4	Design recommendation	98
4.5	Conclusions	101

5	Deterioration of concrete in acidic environment	104
5.1	Introduction	104
5.2	Concrete damage evaluation using ultrasonic pulse velocity	106
5.2.1	Pulse velocity calculation	107
5.3	Experimental details	108
5.3.1	Materials	108
5.3.2	Samples preparation	109
5.3.3	Scheme of acid attack	109
5.4	Results and discussion	114
5.4.1	Appearance changes of samples	114
5.4.2	Digital microscopic image analysis	116
5.4.3	Mass loss	119
5.4.4	Damage layer thickness	122
5.4.5	Deterioration at different positions	139
6	Chapter 6: Deterioration of CFRP-concrete interface in sulfuric acid environment	142
6.1	Introduction	142
6.2	Experimental program	143
6.2.1	Overview	143
6.2.2	Specimen preparation	143
6.2.3	Sulfuric acid conditioning	146
6.2.4	Bond strength	146
6.3	Results and discussion	148
6.3.1	Lap shear test	148
6.3.2	Deterioration of concrete	150
7	References	152

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1: CFRP strengthening of (a) beam (b) slab (c) column (d) bridge	7
Figure 2.2: Deterioration of CFRP composite due to acid attack caused by microorganism	8
Figure 2.3: Acid corrosion on concrete surface	9
Figure 2.4: Concrete deterioration and reinforcement bar corrosion observed in a slab panel	10
Figure 2.5: (a) CFRP sheets (b) CFRP plates (c) CFRP rods	15
Figure 2.6: Property comparison of CFRP and other constituent material	16
Figure 2.7: Concrete deterioration due to (a) moisture (b) salinity (c) acid (d) fire	25
Figure 2.8: CFRP strengthened concrete failure modes under flexural loading.	30
Figure 2.9: Geometric discontinuities causing stress concentration	37
Figure 2.10: Bond slip relationship	40
Figure 2.11: Bond slip model	41
Figure 2.13: Lap joint test (a) single lap joint (b) double lap joint	42
Figure 2.12: Double strap joint side view	42
Figure 3.1: Aerial view of the strengthened industrial wastewater treatment plant	48
Figure 3.2: (a) Side elevation of the equalization tank (picture taken from east side of the tank) (b) Top view of the tank, vent pipes are visible	49
Figure 3.4: Equalization tank details displayed on the tank wall	50
Figure 3.5: (a) Water stagnation on deflected slab panel (b) Cracks identified on top of the slab panel	51
Figure 3.6: (a) Intermediate column separated into two parts (b) lateral deflection of the ventilation pipe	52
Figure 3.7: Plan view of the tank and location of the deteriorated column	53
Figure 3.8: Crack survey locations on top of the tank	53
Figure 3.9: Cracks identified in 16 locations on top of the tank	55
Figure 3.10: (a) Ettringite needles and micro-cracks in concrete matrix (b) Ettringite cluster formations in the deteriorated column	58

Figure 3.11: (a) Moments in top of the roof slab - x direction (b) moment in top of the slab – y direction (c) moment in bottom of the slab – x direction (d) moment in bottom of the slab – y direction (e) deflection of the slab (f) shear in slab	60
Figure 3.12: (a) Moments in top of the roof slab - x direction (b) moment in top of the slab – y direction (c) moment in bottom of the slab – x direction (d) moment in bottom of the slab – y direction (e) deflection of the slab (f) shear in slab	61
Figure 3.13: (a) Water ingress inside column through construction joint (b) corrosion in steel commence with contact with water (c) internal stress generation caused by reinforcement corrosion (b) induces stresses becomes higher than tensile capacity of concrete (e) cracks forms inside the concrete (f) coarse aggregates dislodge from concrete matrix (g) water ingress increases due to the formation of void spaces and cracks (h) column separation into two sections	62
Figure 3.14: (a) Pegs inserted into the concrete (b) Crack repair epoxy injection into the concrete using a pump	65
Figure 3.15: (a) Partially demolished column (b) column reconstruction process (c) reconstructed column	65
Figure 3.16: (a) Concrete surface before preparation (b) concrete surface after preparation using high pressure water jet	67
Figure 3.17: (a) Plastic rollers are rolled over freshly adhered CFRP fabrics (b) sand sprinkled on CFRP sheets to increase the surface roughness	68
Figure 3.18: (a) Column circumferentially wrapped by CFRP sheet for axial strengthening (b) waterproofing coating applied on the CFRP wrap (c) column after the application of 25 mm thick plaster	69
Figure 3.19: (a) Soffit of the slab strengthened by CFRP sheets (b) cement plaster applied on CFRP bonded area	70
Figure 3.20: CFRP strengthened beam after waterproofed cement plaster	70
Figure 3.22: Final view of the equalization tank top after grade 20 concrete fill for aesthetic appearance	71
Figure 3.21: 3-inch-high water barrier constructed around the perimeter of CFRP strengthening slab panels	71
Figure 4.1: CFRP specimens prepared for environmental conditioning	77
Figure 4.2: Schematic diagram of CFRP sheet prepared for testing	78
Figure 4.3: (a) Tensile test specimen (b) Tensile test setup	80
Figure 4.4: Nonuniformity identified in CFRP samples in the form of non-uniform dispersion of resin matrix and voids (a) non uniform dispersion of resin (cross-section image) (b) voids caused by entrapped air bubbles (surface image)	83

Figure 4.5: (a) Average tensile strength versus exposure period (b) Standard deviation verses exposure period	85
Figure 4.6: Scanning electron microscope images obtained from surface of CFRP sheet immersed for 4 weeks in (a) acidic solution (b) water	88
Figure 4.7: Microcrack along the fiber direction in sample immersed in water	89
Figure 4.8: SEM image of CFRP immersed in alkaline solution showing (a) microcracks along fiber (b) hydrolysis and formation of CaCO_3 particles.	90
Figure 4.9: Normalised tensile capacity reduction models and COV of samples immersed in (a) water (b) acid (c) alkaline solutions	94
Figure 4.10: Weibull probability density plot	96
Figure 4.11: Test based damage and cumulative distribution	96
Figure 4.12: Reliability and hazard response of CFRP sheets in (a) water (b) acid (c) alkaline solutions	99
Figure 4.13: Survival probability and risk assessment	100
Figure 4.14: Environmental reduction factor	103
Figure 5.1: Particle size distribution of fine aggregate used in the concrete mix	111
Figure 5.2: (a) concrete samples immersed in a plastic container (b) concrete samples kept on elevated position	113
Figure 5.3: Acidity of solutions were measured using portable acidometer	114
Figure 5.4: UPV tester	116
Figure 5.5: (a) Surface change of concrete samples immersed in pH 1 solution (b) surface change of concrete samples immersed in pH 3 solution (c) surface change of concrete samples immersed in pH 5 solution	118
Figure 5.6: Concrete samples were observed under electronic microscope	119
Figure 5.7: Microscopic images obtained from the surfaces of samples immersed in (a) pH 1 solution (b) pH 3 solution (c) pH 5 solution	121
Figure 5.8: Measuring mass of concrete samples	122
Figure 5.9: Actual mass loss of concrete samples	123
Figure 5.10: Mass loss of concrete samples	123
Figure 5.11: Concrete surface after applying phenolphthalein	125
Figure 5.12: Corrosion depth variation with increasing exposure period	126
Figure 5.13: Ultrasonic pulse velocity (UPV) test setup	128

Figure 5.14: Travel time and traverse distance relationship	129
Figure 5.15: UPV traverse distance verses UPV variation of (a) series 1 (b) series 2 (c) series 3 samples	131
Figure 5.16: Corrosion layer depth calculated from UPV readings	131
Figure 5.17: RDME variation with the exposure period	133
Figure 5.18: Relative compressive strength variation with exposure period	135
Figure 5.19: Relative compressive strength variation eliminating hydration effect with exposure period	136
Figure 5.20: UPV test performed while applying load	137
Figure 5.21: UPV variation under axial compression (a) series 1 (b) series 2 (c) series 3 (d) series 4	138
Figure 5.22: Concrete fracture profile obtained after compression test (a) series 1 (b) series 2 (c) series 3	140
Figure 5.23: Digital microscopic images obtained from concrete surfaces (a) image from highly corroded zone (b) image from corrosion front.	141
Figure 5.24 SEM images of (a) highly corroded, loose microstructure- zone 1 (b) highly corroded, loose microstructure -zone 1 (c) mildly corroded transition zone- zone 2 (d) dense microstructure- zone 3	142
Figure 6.1: Compressive strength test of concrete blocks	145
Figure 6.2: Preliminary lap shear test conducted using UTM	146
Figure 6.3: (a) Concrete prism samples were prepared for conditioning (b) pH level of the samples were checked using a ph paper (c) samples were kept inside the tank for conditioning (d) plastic boxes were labelled to notify the risk of acid exposure	148
Figure 6.4: CFRP bonding arrangement of lap shear test samples	149
Figure 6.5: Lap shear test results of samples after completing the intended exposure period.	150

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Details about possible acid attack on concrete structures and severity of acid attacks	11
Table 2.2: Real-world applications of CFRP strengthening.	18
Table 2.3: Selected Code/Guideline/Review papers regarding CFRP strengthening.	20
Table 2.4: Prevailing standard guidelines regarding surface preparation	22
Table 4.1 Manufacturer provided material properties of CFRP sheet and Epoxy	75
Table 4.2: Tensile test results of CFRP samples exposed to water, acidic and alkaline solutions	79
Table 4.3 Calculated Weibull parameters from linear regression models	95
Table 4.4 Environmental reduction factors proposed in ACI 440.2R-17	100
Table 4.5 Variation range of environmental reduction factors according to this study	100
Table 5.1: Chemical composition of cement	108
Table 5.2: Concrete mix design details	108
Table 5.3: concrete samples allocation for the experiment program	113
Table 5.4: neutralization depth polynomial coefficients	125
Table 5.5: Compariosn of damage depth obtained from phenopthnele test and UPV test for series 1	130
Table 5.6: Comparison of damage depth obtained from phenolphthalein test and UPV test for series 2	130
Table 6.1: Compressive strength results of the samples	144
Table 6.2: Preliminary bond test results for varying bond lengths	145
Table 6.3: Lah shear test samples conditioning setup	148

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
FRP	Fiber Reinforced Polymer
CFRP	Carbon Fiber reinforced polymer
UV	Ultraviolet
MIC	Microbial Induced Corrosion
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscopy
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
UTM	Universal Testing Machine
COV	Coefficient of Variation
SD	Standard Deviation
UPV	Ultrasonic Pulse Velocity
RDME	Relative Dynamic Modulus of Elasticity